

Exhibit No. 7Date 3-9-09Bill No. SB 234**FACT SHEET - SB 234 "Brandon's Bill"****Autism Data:**

- 1 in 150 children are born with autism (2002 data)
- 1.5 million Americans are affected by autism
- 10-17% increase in incidents of autism each year
- \$3.2 million per capita cost of autism over the person's lifetime without effective intervention
- 47% of children are mainstreamed as a result of intensive ABA programs
- \$1.7 million to \$2.8 million per person estimated cost benefit (avoidance) from intervention

What are Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD)?

An ASD begins before the age of 3 and lasts throughout a person's lifetime. ASD's are developmental disabilities that cause substantial impairments in social interaction and communication and the presence of unusual behaviors and interests. The thinking and learning abilities of people with ASDs can vary- from gifted to severely-challenged.

(The above data is from the State of Montana's Department of Health & Human Services)

SB 234 would provide insurance coverage to children with autism in the State of Montana with these guidelines:

\$50,000/year maximum benefit for a child 8 years of age or younger

\$20,000/year maximum benefit for a child 9 years of age through 18 years of age

An Actuarial Cost Estimate of SB 234 was done by Oliver Wyman Actuarial Consulting, Inc. Their findings were based on SB 234 before the amendments were made; therefore these numbers are much overstated. They are based on a \$50,000/year maximum benefit for all dependents through age 25.

Oliver Wyman Actuarial Consulting predicted the premium cost increase for SB 234 would be just under 6/10ths of a percent or \$21.80/year. Based on the amendments, the actual cost should be slightly less than half that, or about \$12.70 per year.

SB 234 would reduce the need for government dependence. It reduces future Medicaid services, special education costs, welfare, adult services, housing and care, juvenile detention/court, individual bankruptcies & divorces, saving our state millions of dollars.

Autism is treatable. With appropriate treatment, 30 years of research has shown that children can overcome the severe symptoms of their disorder to lead very productive lives.